WORKERS of the WORLD·UNITE

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST

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THE CONSCRIPT WHO WON'T: HIS SONG.

(Tune: "Marching through Georgia.")

They are up against a problem, and they don't know what to do;
They think they're going to make their soldiers out of me and you;
But take our tip, we're not the stuff to make a servile crew
And take the oath in Pearce's conscript army.

CHORUS.

Hurrah, hurrah! No conscript oath for me!
Hurrah, hurrah! We'll stand up with the free!
We'll pay no fine, we'll bide our time,
To jail we'll go with glee,
And bear the brunt in glorious fight for Freedom.

The craven prosecutors, they can do their level best
To coax us and coerce us, but we'll stand their vicious test;
The liberty our fathers fought for, we will fight for too,
But not within George Pearce's conscript army.

For men who want "a reason why"—the soldier's creed won't do,
Then buckle up your courage, boys, and we will see this through,
In spite of jibes from magistrates and threats from "men in blue,"
We'll have no truck with Pearce's conscript army.

—*Miscellaneous Worker* (adapted).

The Passing Show.

CONDUCTED BY OTUS.

The following letter, addressed to the editor The International Socialist, is to hand from Sydney *Truth*:

In your issue of March 23rd, in "The Passing Show" column, by "Otus," appears the following:.

"A Queensland correspondent writes that the sub-editor of Brisbane *Truth* was sacked because he came out on strike with the rest of the staff. Surely this is not true? It makes it look as if other papers were following Sydney *Worker's* attitude, and treating journalistic strikers as bushrangers."

We assume this crude specimen of journalese must have escaped your editorial eye. You would know that there was no strike of literary men in Brisbane, nor did any literary men come out in sympathy with the strikers.

Your scribe having repeated the incorrect gossip of his Queensland correspondent says: "Can this be true?" What sort of a careless coot must he be to repeat the gossip without ascertaining whether there was a scintilla of truth in it?

With the doubt in his mind your scribe proceeds on the intangible foundation to assert:

"It makes it look as if other papers were following Sydney *Worker's* attitude, and treating journalistic strikers as bushrangers."

Your own opinion of the *Worker* has been set out in your own columns; you will therefore realise the nature of the slur that the irresponsible Queensland gossip has led your negligent scribe to cast.

If the Q. gossip refers to anything in connection with the recent Brisbane strike, such matters were fully dealt with in the columns of this paper (Sydney *Truth*). Briefly, the Typographical Union called out all its men. Brisbane *Truth* did not seek to replace them. The men knocked off work when ordered by their Union; they re-started work when ordered by the Union.

You are at liberty to call at this office—or send a representative—to get particulars of any matter you desire, as we take it you will seek to undo the mischief sought to be done by your negligent scribe in question.

The Labor Party never did such an appriate thing in its life as when it sent Broken Hill Barnett to represent it on the Bench against the conscript boys on All Fools Day.

Samuel Wilkinson was found dead alongside of a Government office at Circular Quay, Sydney, one day last week. A bottle of lysol was by his side. A letter found in his pockets stated that he was workless and had had neither home nor food for four days. He was an electrical engineer, and was a recent arrival. Still the Labor Party is beguiling working men into coming to Australia to take the same risks. And isn't it a peculiar sort of Labor Government whose government renders starvation and death from unemployment a certainty?

The whole International Socialist movement, in so far as it is an educated, trained and effective force, recognises the class war as the inevitable outcome of existing economic and social conditions; strives for the complete overthrow of competitive production for profit and the wage-slave system, by the establishment of a national and international Co-operative Commonwealth; uses by preference political methods, such as representation in the elected Assemblies of every country, as the best and easiest method of attaining the great object in view; but does not ignore direct action, in the shape of a thoroughly organised general strike and industrial interdict, or the brigading of the armed and disciplined working class, in nations where this is possible, against the exploiting minority over against them as a possible means of attaining the same result.—H. M. Hyndman, in *Justice*.

Get together, brothers, and get up on your knees.

Refuse to go to hell—the hell of war.

Refuse to stay in hell—the hell of capitalist industry.

Unite! For peace and freedom, unite!

Form, toilers, form!

Organise!

A solid front on the battlefield—of industry.

A solid front on the battlefield—of politics.

A suggestion: Let each one of a hundred thousand men and women patiently and repeatedly bear light to the brain of one new man or woman each month for two years, and teach each new man to become a teacher of other men and women. Get some good book, a book that burns, a book that kindles a passion for freedom and justice, and lend that book to a new person each month till the book is worn out.

Light the lamp in your neighbor's brain.

Strike the fire in your neighbor's heart.

Revolutionise him.

Dare.

To-day.

Society is, and always will be, as free as the majority have sense enough and pride enough to make it, or as tyrannical as the majority are meek enough to permit it to be.

Conditions always express the will or lack of will of the majority.—*War—What For?*

Their dear country.

They had been "grasping at death" for their dear country.

Remember! The buzzards and the battlefield grave worms did not get the "prominent people" who actually own this dear country. "Higher officers" cannot instil or fill a banker or a manufacturer so full of the "spirit of eagerness" that he becomes eager to "grasp at death" and have his eyeballs ripped out and his shattered body eaten by vultures.

These men are not excited—not in the least.

These men are thinking.

These were not "grasping at death," they were grasping for Cuba.

Cuba looked good, and you looked easy.

These men needed you in their business. And they got you, you Cuban War veterans.—*War—What For?*

F. S. Wells writes in *Goulburn Herald* in opposition to Conscription: "They, the sons of workers, will be called upon to slaughter their fellow-beings and lay down their own lives for something that they have not, never had, and never will have under existing conditions, their rightful heritage—the land. There is no doubt that all modern wars are created just simply to benefit the capitalistic classes, who do the looking on whilst the workers are fighting for them; and it is very easy for a man with capital to escape the compulsory training Act, simply by paying someone else to serve his time for him.

"Regarding the late law case when certain cadets were fined for not attending drill, it is rumored that the mother of one of the lads concerned is a poor widowed woman, who has to do a little sewing to eke out an existence; and now she has the alternative of paying an unjust fine, or seeing her son sent to jail."

The Lithgow Prisoners' Release Committee, called together in the first place by the Sydney Branch of the S.F.A., is growing. A number of trades unions and other bodies have sent delegates, and the result should be a monster demand for the release of the unjustly jailed unionists. Anything short of a demand—an ultimatum to the striker-jailing Government—won't be worth while.

And the whole multitude arose and led the agitator to a judge.

And they began to accuse him, saying: We found this fellow perverting the nation and forbidding to give tribute to his master, saying that he himself as a producer of wealth is entitled to all he produces.

Then said one in a Dunce Cap and Silk Petticoat, I find no fault with this man.

The prose cried out He stirreth up the people teaching that we, the capitalists, wine and dine from the blood and sweat of widows and orphans.

Again the press cried out, Crucify him.

Then they led him away to a place called prison.

There they hung him with a priest on the right hand a sheriff on the left.—Agnes Thelma Fair.

The Social-Democrat Party in the Reichstag have appointed comrades Scheidemann, D. Frank, Ledebour, and Dr. David to speak on the Budget. They have further decided to introduce an interpellation urging the Government to suspend the taxes on potatoes, and also on the barley and maize used for fodder.

The Socialists put up Bebel as candidate for the Reichstag Presidency, and Scheidemann for the First Vice-Presidency. The result, after three ballots, was the election of Spahn by 196 votes, Bebel polling 175. Comrade Scheidemann was then elected as First Vice-President by 188 votes against the reactionary Dr. Dietrich.

Every conscript boy should learn to sing the song published on this page; and whenever a political advocate of militarism speaks in public, the boys and all others who object to the murder scheme should attend, and sing this song at him.

R. H. Long on "War":

Professional soldiers are mostly "cash butchers." Join the early closing movement.

Harry Holland has jumped clean over "De Fence" and left the rest of us to crawl out wherever we can find a rotten picket!

The soldiers' "maxims" threaten death to our "morals."

The clergy send a "Chaplain" with the army and keep a "Canon" in the church. Onward "Christian" Soldiers.

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A Red Mark indicates that your Subscription must be renewed AT ONCE, if you desire the delivery of the paper to continue.

"God made the heavens and the earth and the waters of the sea"—but Capitalism has built this hideous hell in which you and I are living to-day.

No Conscription!

Why Roy Holland Doesn't Drill.

The Statement Barnett Wouldn't Hear.

BY H. E. HOLLAND.

The following is the statement that magistrate Barnett would have heard at the Glebe Police Court on All Fools' Day had he listened:

I object to compulsory militarism on the broad grounds of principle. I feel that there is no reason whatever—beyond the money-making interests of national sections of the capitalist class why the working men of any one country should kill the working men of any other country. I have always recognised that wars are never made by the working class, but always by the ruling class, and that those who make wars should be left to fight them. For these reasons I fought against Conscription when it was first mooted, and have consistently endeavored to imbue my sons with international working-class and anti-militarist ideas.

Some 12 months ago I suffered a physical breakdown from overwork, followed by other complications, and went into the Coast Hospital, where I remained for five months—portion of an illness that has extended over nearly a year.

While I was at the hospital, Roy commenced drilling. I was too ill to take any interest in outside affairs, and he took the course that then appeared to him least likely to involve me in any worry.

As soon as I returned from the hospital, I prevented him from attending any further drills, and returned the unsightly uniform.

Military life has a degrading and demoralising environment; no man was ever better for being a soldier, and military training tends to make predominant whatever of the savage remains in the human. "What beaks and talons are to eagles, what tusks are to tigers, soldiers are to Capitalism."

The boys have never been consulted in the making of the Conscription Law; and is it not a fact that even if the Act were right and just, it would not be insisted that the boys should be made to do the training and fighting? Would not that duty be thrown on the men?

Then consider the meaning of the oath, and all that its loyal observance means. The political State is a Class State, of which the king or the president is but the figurehead, and loyalty to the king in its real meaning is loyalty to the Class State, and therefore disloyalty to working class interests, which stand for the overthrow of the Class State and the institution of monarchy, and the establishment of the Industrial Republic, with administration in place of class rule. It is the capitalist system and the material interests of the capitalists that make wars necessary.

Again, consider the clause of the Defence Act referring to "domestic violence." In the event of a strike being declared an act of domestic violence by any State Government, my son would—if he were a member of the Military Forces—perhaps find himself ordered to fire on working-class men and women—even on myself or his own mother—for probably no other reason than that of insisting on the right of free speech or free assemblage. Under such circumstances, if he refused to shoot even myself, he would be guilty of a serious offence, and might even be court-martialled and shot.

Neither this nor any other country is owned by the working class. The real owners of Australia (who are *not* included in military compulsion) should be the only persons to fight to retain Australia. All the cries of alarm about people from other countries having designs on this country are so many unworthy subterfuges in an endeavor to work up an immoral patriotism. This is being done in all countries—especially in England re Germany and in Germany re England.

The working men of other countries are *not* enemies or the enemies of my son. Racial and international hatreds are deplorable, and are only cultivated and worked up by the ruling classes of the respective countries for class reasons. Our real enemies are those Australians who live without work by legally stealing the surplus wealth made by the working men and women.

Why, the very members of Parliament who would treat my son for refusing to drill, the same as they would treat a pickpocket or any professional criminal, specially exempted themselves—and this fact is one of the best evidence that the whole system is rottenly wrong.

I have instructed Roy that he must not attend any further drills. When a final notice came threatening him with prosecution, I personally wrote to Senator Pearce, explaining that I, and not the boy, was responsible for his continued absence from drill, demanding that I alone should be prosecuted if any prosecution was to eventuate, and hoping that there was still sufficient honesty and manliness left in Senator Pearce's Dept. *not* to prosecute the boy for my act. Apparently there was not sufficient manliness left, for Senator Pearce has persisted in prosecuting the boy as well as myself.

I am fully determined that my son shall not take any part whatever in drill or any other detail of the Conscription Act—which in the eyes of the world's Socialist movement to which I belong is a crime against Humanity, and against the boys in particular.

This is a case where I was called upon to choose between the written law and the moral law—I either had to obey the written law and do a criminal act against my own conscience (in which case I should have ceased to be an honest man) or I had to break the written law and thus remain honest and retain my own self-respect.

The criminal nature of the Act under which I am charged is demonstrated by the fact that boys—who were never consulted in the making of the Act—are treated as criminals if they refuse to take the oath, although they may have every conscientious reason for refusing to take it. As a matter of fact, the oath pledges them never to attempt to alter the existing political system.

When a bad and immoral law is attempted to be fastened on the people—without their consent, as was done in this case—the only way to get rid of it is by the more fearless spirits in the community refusing to obey it. There is scarcely a record in history of any great immoral law having been got rid of until someone had broken it, and by the breaking of it concentrated public attention on its injustice and immorality.

Socrates—the most upright of men—broke the law in his day, and died for breaking it; but to-day we know that Socrates was right and the law wrong.

Spartacus broke the law, but all Humanity is now with Spartacus and against the law that pursued him.

Christ broke the law and died for breaking it—but a large portion of the world now claims that Christ was right and the law that executed him wrong.

Bruno broke the law, and died at the stake; Galileo broke the written law—when he verified the truths of Copernicus—and Galileo suffered and was made to recant; but all the great world of Science knows that Galileo was right.

One of the most prominent of N.S.W. judges grasped this, when in the course of the King against Bear and others, he declared: "The difficulty of dealing with the matter is not lessened by the fact that the question comes for consideration surrounded by all the prejudices with which centuries of ignorance and thoughtlessness have invested it. The teachers who first proclaimed the brotherhood of man, his equality in world, his right to worship as he chose, were prosecuted as the enemies of Society . . . A certain number of prosecutions under the law, a certain number of victims to the ignorance or superstition of those who framed it, a certain number of refusals to convict under a growing sense of its unwisdom, injustice, and barbarity, seem to be in all societies the stages passed through by laws established for the purpose of coercing the opinions of mankind before they become obsolete—if judge-made—or, if statutes, are repealed as inconsistent with advancing knowledge."

This, then, is my case. My resistance to the Defence Act is the result of my own settled convictions—and, whatever happens, my present attitude will be persisted in. No fine will be paid by me—nor will it be paid for me with my consent.

I admit that in the administration of the written class law—considerations of justice may not be permitted to intrude, still I submit that all the principles of justice demand that the prosecution should fail, and the case be dismissed.

The Labor Party's Conscription Act

BY W.R.W.

The Federal Labor Government is beginning to find out what an enormous blunder it has made in passing its so-called Defence Act. After arousing the indignation and disgust of thousands of its old-time supporters; after setting the rising generation against Laborism and all its ways, and turning the hopes of youth away from itself and towards International Socialism; after prosecuting and fining the Conscript boys and persecuting their parents; after giving the military officer the power to step in between the boy and his parents, his school-master, his employer, the magistrate and his decisions and the courts of justice, after robbing the parent of all parental control and fining him, as in the Holland case, £100; after robbing such parent of the right to go before a jury; after practically putting the country under military control and martial law, and thus bringing in an era of industrial conscription, it has tardily awakened to the enormity of its offence against public liberty and has decided to remit the fines inflicted upon the boys who refuse to drill.

In intellectual and literary circles the Act and its authors have met with the most vigorous opposition and condemnation, and it is safe to say that in the long run the Act will be swept into the waste basket of oblivion. The following letter, by one of Australia's most gifted writers, voices the opinions of the large and thoughtful body of readers, not only of this paper, but of the readers of the daily press who have followed the Holland case. We cannot print the numerous letters which are pouring into the office, but "Sydney Partrige" shall speak for the rest. She writes:

Dear Mr. Holland—It was with the deepest indignation that I heard of the latest piece of injustice and tyranny dealt out to you by the Government—I mean the monstrous sentence passed on you in the police courts because you refused to allow your boy to join the band of legalised murderers organised by the said Government. When we think of the motto of our country it must fill us with gloom to consider the very crab-like method of its advancement, if indeed we can so libel the crab, which does at least get there, if sideways, but Australia is, as the Americans say, "fast progressing backwards." Back to the bad old days of intolerance, of brutal force, of the tyrant in power, of ignorance and prejudice and the criminal theft of a man's liberty. But what in it all has amazed me most (though doubtless not you with your clearer vision) is the ominous fact that it is the Labor Government which has forced this detestable, this loathed, this bloody conscript law upon our land. By what right do men so deal with their brother-men? It is a case of putting a beggar on horseback. I regard myself with disgust as I recollect that I gave my vote to help elect a Labor candidate (thank God, the little rat did not get in, however)! For years I have voted steadily for the Labor Party because there were no Socialist candidates for whom to vote, it is true, but never, never again while I have the use of my reason.

Moreover what little power I may have to use against the Labor Party in any way whatever compatible with honor and decency shall be so used. But from the bottom of my heart do I deplore the fact of my impotence to aid Socialism—and you in especial—to any valuable extent. I have never before felt so cruelly that the LACK of money is the root of all evil. How I would like to pay that fine for you! May it take its blood-money curse with it to those men who primarily inflict it upon anyone—they who sit in the seats of the mighty, lining their pockets from the rifled purses of the blind workers, and keeping themselves exempt from conscription while forcing it on others—those others the innocent young who should be their first care.

I do not know what line of action you intend taking, but may I be allowed to donate the enclosed ten shillings towards a subscription list for payment of the fine, or if of more convenience to you to go towards any other of your *personal* expenses connected with this affair.

My very kind regards and deep sympathy for Mrs. Holland.

Ever yours in comradeship,
SYDNEY PARTRIGE.

Varul, Ridge-street, Gordon,
April 2, 1912.

As the Minister for Defence has seen fit to remit the fines inflicted upon the Conscript boys, he is hereby called upon to remit the fine inflicted upon H. E. Holland. Had Roy Holland been fined, the fine would have been declared illegal and remitted along with the rest. Now, however, the father is fined £100 for taking his son's responsibility, which was nil, upon himself. Holland was really fined for controlling his own son, and in fighting his case he fought the battle of every parent in Australia. His fight was really for the parent against the military officer who enters the home, the school, or the workshop, and drags his victim to the barbarous drill ground.

To our readers we say it is time to be up and doing. We are glad to receive the many expressions of sympathy for H. E. Holland, but do not fail to send a few letters to Senator Pearce protesting against the Conscript Act, and the fining and jailing of Holland. Demand the remission of the fine, organise public demonstrations to protest, pass vigorous resolutions of condemnation, and educate the people against the "leprosy of militarism."

Industrial Workers of the World.

Australian Administration: E. Moyle, general sec.-treasurer, Socialist Hall, Wakefield-street, Adelaide.
Sydney Local: Geo. G. Reeve, sec.-treasurer, 222 Cumberland-street, Sydney.

The following resolution was passed at the last meeting of the above: "The I.W.W. Club records its strongest protest against the imposition of a fine of £100 on H. E. Holland for objecting to his son taking part in the compulsory training system. Futher, that a well-known and persistent opponent of the Political Labor Party should be singled out for prosecution, appears to many as discriminatory partisan bias and petty persecution; and that a party claiming to represent Labor should legislate on such reactionary lines, and create a new offence with such drastic penalties—though it in no way infringes the moral law—is evidence that the party has departed from its original ideals.

Should the prediction of Labor Member Anstey, of Victoria, be realised, that the party will at the next elections "meet its Sedan," the I.W.W. will not be overwhelmed with regret, but regard the downfall as a just retribution, and as the Nemesis of democracy on the sham Napoleons and Bazaines who, whilst dressed in a little brief authority, have misruled in Labor's name, placed additional yokes on the workers, and dragged Young Australia into the mire of militarism, from which the democracy of Europe is rightly struggling to be free."

The cartoon printed on the front page of this issue is reproduced from *Cotton's Weekly*.

The various Socialist bodies in Turkey have taken steps to draw up a common program, founded on the programs of the groups and the decisions of their Congresses. There can be no question of joining, it is said, with any of the Young Turkish factions, the Liberal Union, or the Committee of Union and Progress.

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Adelaide Notes.

BY INDUSTRIALIST.

DURING the organised scabbery practiced at Port Adelaide by the wharf-laborers and other similar "unions" with the railway union, the fertilisers' strike has been broken and the men have returned to work on the masters' terms—the present rate of wages to be paid and a board of arbitrators of three exploiters and three of the exploited, with an "independent" chairman to meet and decide the rate of wages to be paid. Thus for the manyth time the workers have again had a lesson as to the necessity of correct working-class organisation.

Recently the carters in the employ of the Adelaide corporation, who were in receipt of 11s 6d per day for man, horse, dray, and harness, sent on a request to the Council for 13s per day. The Council appointed a committee (mainly composed of members of the master class) to enquire into the demand of the drivers. The committee brought forward a burlesque of a report in which they recommended the Council to pay the carters 12s per day. This was adopted by the Council but refused by the men, who agreed to accept 12s 6d per day. This the Council firmly refused, and the men decided if the 12s 6d was not conceded by Saturday at noon they would cease work until their demands were granted. The carters ceased work on Saturday and when scab drays and lorries were brought into action on the Monday, the laborers, who recently joined the U.L.U. in a body, refused to load them or work with scab drivers, and they also ceased work in sympathy with the carters. At a meeting of the Council it was agreed to leave the conduct of the strike for the Council, in the hands of the mayor. The mayor then hired two motor lorries and purchased another second hand one at a cost of £485, notwithstanding the fact that there is a standing order of the Council that forbids the mayor spending any amount exceeding £10 between Council meetings. The Council placed a large advertisement for scab labor in the three daily papers. The *Daily Herald*, our "labor" paper, displayed the advertisement, and the only excuse of the *Herald* management was that they had always considered they had a right to a fair share of the ratepayers money, and hence they published the (scab) ad. on this occasion, and yet in their columns they stated that the demands of the men were just and barracked for the Council to pay them. Owing to the dirty state of the city streets a large requisition was presented to the mayor asking for a public meeting to discuss the question. The meeting eventuated on Wednesday last, and three resolutions were carried—one moved by Lundie urging the Council to pay the 12s 6d; one by ex-mayor Cohen (who was annoyed because he was not consulted about the purchase of the second-hand motor lorry, and lectured the men because they did not consult HIM before they struck), declaring that the purchase of the motor lorry was illegal and unconstitutional, and condemning the mayor; the third resolution moved by ponderous Ponder, M.P. (who could not allow the opportunity to pass without suggesting a compromise, which fell flat) urging that all the men should be reinstated at the conclusion of the s rike. This was seconded by ex-Attorney General Denny, Labor (?) M.P., who could not overcome the temptation to deliver a weak political speech to such a large audience.

Many people are under the impression that it was the large audience attracted Denny to the meeting, as he had declined earlier in the day to be present, pleading that he had a shivoo at the Trades Hall to attend.

At the indignation meeting, Blundell, Labor ? M.P., of Renmark fame, stated that he was in sympathy with the demands of the men, and severely castigated the Council for not granting the carters' demands, and yet the same Blundell, as president of the Drivers' Union, acquiesced in a resolution carried at the drivers' meeting, that they (the drivers) should scab on the corporation carters by delivering the refuse of private firms to the Council's garbage destructor, which particular concern the men desire to see supplied with as little refuse as possible.

The Council have three motor lorries and three single horse drays working, with a small army of scabs, numbering 40, who receive, in addition to the usual pay of 8s per day, a bonus of £1 per week, and free board and lodging, for their loyalty to master. Many of the scabs are well-known pinkie-herons and down-and-outs. The Council selected a very appropriate place to domicile them—the garbage destructor. They are under police protection wherever they go, and it is a common sight to see the police ordering them to do certain duties.

The strike is in its second week, and all the men who ceased work are remaining firm and putting up a good fight according to their lights; but one cannot help wishing that they knew more of the correct fighting tactics to adopt. The state of the city points to the men winning out; if they are beaten it will be but a repetition of the same old story: Logical craft union methods—craft union scabbery.—5.4.12.

Strike-Wrecked Lithgow.

BY A FURNACE-MAN.

THINGS have been lively in Lithgow since the last Socialist meeting.

Dixon and Delahunty were sent by the Defence Committee to Sydney to attend the Labor Council Executive meeting on Tuesday night. They came back from Sydney on Wednesday—and strongly advocated a settlement on the Council's terms. The funny part of the business is that both Dixon and Delahunty were almost threatening to stoush the Labor Council men at their last meeting in Lithgow. One would almost think the Labor Council dealt in chloroform. A vote was taken, and they were 95 to 27 against going back on the terms indicated.

Then Dooley came up on Saturday to try and get the men to surrender. He used all the arguments and subterfuges employed by the Labor Council men. However, the Defence Committee turned him down, and told him they wanted nothing whatever to do with him or his party. He then left with a man named Costello to try and get a few of the Ironworkers' Union together—that is the union Dixon is secretary of.

One of the strikers asked Dooley why the Labor Party is still sending police to Lithgow, and he answered that "the police are paid and they have to be somewhere." I must not forget to tell you that LITHGOW IS AGAIN FLOODED WITH POLICE, and it is the general opinion that when the Scab Labor Council has finally succeeded in lifting the embargo from the scab iron more scab police will be sent here by the scab Labor Party to see that the sold-out and defeated unionists do not in any way offend the scabs.—31.3.12.

LATER.—Dooley and Geo. Cann both came back to Lithgow to-day. Somehow they have got around the Ironworkers Union; they pleaded with the men to go back to work with the scabs. Some of the Defence Committee got to the strike-wreckers and told them things. Doyle in particular declared that the Labor Government had been against the unionists from the start, and the Government and the Labor Council were helping Hoskins to beat the strikers.—1.4.12.

Broken Hill Notes.

BY WATCHER.

THE minions of Capitalist conspiracy are at work on this field. Alf. Giles, a well-known unionist, received a summons to-day for not allowing his son to be drilled under the Labor Party's murder scheme. The military authorities prosecuted Giles' boy, who was fined 10s or the rising of the Court. The lad (young traitor, of course) preferred to take it out. Both father and son are determined to fight against this military conspiracy for manufacturing strike breakers to the extent of going to jail. The A.M.A. meeting last evening received a letter from Mrs. A. Duffield, sec. Newtown Branch of the S.F.A., with regard to the Conscription Act, and asking the A.M.A. to take a definate stand against same.

The following resolution was carried: "That this Association is prepared to assist in any movement for doing away with this infamous Act."

The A.M.A. decided some time back to pay all expenses in connection with the defending of any action taken against their members under the Conscription Act.

A letter was also received from F. J. Riley, hon. sec. Lithgow Prisoners' Relief Committee, Sydney, also from W. Brennan, sec. C.E.F., Newcastle, asking for delegates to be appointed for the purpose of waiting on the Attorney-General with a view to obtaining the release of the Lithgow prisoners. The following resolutions were carried: "That this Association pledges itself not to support any candidate in the present Ministry who votes against the release of the Lithgow prisoners, and the secretary be instructed to circularise all the unions of N.S.W., earnestly requesting them to do the same. The Association also guarantees its quota to the expenses incurred."

A letter was received from J. Dixon, sec. C.U.D.C., Lithgow, stating particulars in connection with recent ballot taken by them, and action of Sydney Labor Council in requesting them to go back to work with non-unionists. The action of Lithgow men in refusing to go back to work was endorsed by meeting, and the strike levy to support Lithgow men is still to be continued.

All the comrades and militants here are looking forward to the visit of Harry Holland, and to a general shaking up of the old dried bones.—3.4.12.

Sydney Propaganda Fixtures.

SATURDAY.

Rozelle—Bowen, Moore, Talbot, Hainsworth, Sloan.

Leichhardt—Young, Roche, Rutherford, and Knight.

Newtown—Walsh, Duffield, Harris.

SUNDAY.

Domain—Rees (chair), Grant, Roche, Rutherford.

Market-street—Whitman (chair), Roche and Grant.

Newtown—Walsh, Hennessy, Harris, Duffield.

Balmain—Sloan, Hainsworth, Talbot, Moore, Bowen.

Socialist Fables.

The Insane Soldier.

BY W.R.W.

JOE GUNN was a soldier and a patriot. He had fought in the Soudan war and the Boer war, and though he had only one leg, and one eye left, he vowed that he was ready to fight again whenever the empire called.

Joe had one son, of whom he was mighty proud, and who had been christened Baden-Powell Kitchener Gunn, after certain well-known Generals.

Joe's ambition was to make a soldier of his son, and he lost no opportunity of recounting his exploits and displaying his wooden leg and his medals.

Baden-Powell Kitchener paid some attention to his father's yarns, but when the Labor Party passed its Conscription Act, and he found he had to drill, instead of playing cricket, football, and other games, he commenced to think very hard, and finally came to the conclusion that soldiering was no good to him, and he refused to drill.

He was summoned before a magistrate, who questioned him, and who also had Joe Gunn called as a witness.

The magistrate found that Joe Gunn was one of the "bull-dog breed," while the son—Baden-Powell Kitchener—was of a new generation, and given somewhat to thinking for himself.

"Why don't you obey the law and drill?" the magistrate asked. "Why don't you prepare to defend your country?"

"I haven't got any of the country to defend," Baden-Powell Kitchener answered. "And I see that soldiers are always being sent against the working-class when they go on strike. If I become a soldier, I may have to shoot my own mates, or go to another country to kill the working men and women there."

The magistrate was startled. He rubbed his eyes and coughed to gain time. After he had regained his breath, he returned to the attack.

"But consider the noble example of your father," he said. "He fought and bled for his country. Look what a heroic figure he is, covered, as he is, with glory."

B.P.K. grinned at the Bench and shook his head. "When I look at Dad's wooden leg and glass eye, he doesn't seem a very heroic figure," he said. "I used to believe he was a hero, but now I think he must have been insane to allow himself to be used as he was."

Magistrate: "How do you make that out?"

B.P.K.: "Well, sir, he went to the Soudan and fought to take it, but he didn't get any of it for himself. He got a piece of colored ribbon and a brummy medal instead. He lost one eye there, sir, still he didn't see the folly of his conduct.

Magistrate: "Your father is a patriot."

B.P.K.: "Yes, sir; and he went to the Boer war, and helped to take South Africa from the Boers, but he didn't get any of that country. He had one leg shot off, but he got another piece of colored ribbon and a bauble, and when he came back he said he was amply repaid."

Magistrate: "Yes, and I feel sure, if an enemy came here to-morrow, your father would be the first to shoulder a gun in defence of his home and country."

B.P.K.: "Yes, sir, that is why we think father is a bit mad. He doesn't own any land, and the house we live in belongs to a landlord who raises the rent every few months, yet he swears he would fight for the landlord's house and land against any enemy who came to take the property from him. We tell Dad that he might lose his other leg, his arms, his other eye, or even his life, but he says he wouldn't mind if he lost everything fighting for his king and country. Mother often chaffs him and says that if she had known he was so dilly she would have had his head seen to before ever he went to the Soudan."

Magistrate (to area officer): "The case is dismissed. There's a serious flaw in the Act. You cannot proceed against those conscript boys until next year or the year after." (Aside, and in a low voice) "The young beggars know too much."

Answers to Correspondents.

G. SHRODER, Muswellbrook.—There is only one answer to your question. It is this: The Labor Party *is* an enemy of Labor. How then can we help the enemies of Labor by belittling the Labor Party? If you receive copies of this paper they are paid for by somebody. There is no need for you to pay.

A.W.W., Melbourne.—Received.

W.C.A., Pitt-street, Sydney; FRED WOOD, Huddersfield, Eng.—H. E. Holland is at present in Adelaide, and will not return for another two weeks. Will keep communications until his return.

MASSAGE, Erskineville; F. L. MINAHGO; A.B., Glenbrook; L.L.B., Sydney.—Received. Thanks.

W.P., Mildura, Vic.; A.R., Wentworth Falls; W.R.B., Broken Hill; K. Kanitz, Brisbane; S.P., Cooktown. Subs. received.

W.C.I., Rockhampton.—Received. Thanks.

H.E.B., Brisbane.—You will find particulars re your inquiry in this issue.

Party Premises Fund.

Previously acknowledged, £24 3s 2d. F. A. Roberts 1s. Total, £24 4s 2d.

S.F.A. News & Notes.

Balmain.

AT Rozelle on Saturday night a good meeting was held. M. Moore occupied the chair, and the speakers were Bowen, Sloan, Talbot, and C. Moore.

A successful meeting was held at Unity Hall corner, Balmain, on Sunday night, when the speakers were the same as on the previous night.

A Branch meeting will be held in the Oddfellows' Hall on Tuesday next, April 16th, at 8 o'clock.—J. McKERLIE, sec.

Broken Hill.

A special meeting of the above Branch was held on Sunday, March 31, and dealt with conference agenda paper, and also instructed delegate.

The Executive was instructed to make the necessary arrangements for comrade Harry Holland's visit to the Barrier after conference.

J. J. O'Reilly was elected acting-secretary during the absence of secretary H. Sturrock at conference.

Mr. Marshall delivered a lecture to a full house on Sunday evening last on "The Mission of Jesus." An animated discussion followed, the Socialists presenting their case from the materialist viewpoint.

Hugh Swindley will lecture next Sunday evening on "Jesus, the Socialist," from an unorthodox standpoint.

Harry Sturrock leaves for conference on Saturday evening next.

All papers sold out.—J. J. O'REILLY (3, 4.12).

Newtown.

Saturday night's meeting was well attended. Duffield opened with a good address, and was followed by Chambers, Martin, and Walsh. Martin delivered a splendid speech on the militarist question. At 10 p.m. sharp the police moved us along.

Sunday night's meeting was also a great success, all the papers and literature being sold. The speakers were Duffield, Martin, Walsh, and Harris, and they held the crowd without any interjections until the meeting terminated at a few minutes to 10.—ANNIE DUFFIELD, sec.

Sydney.

There were splendid meetings in the domain on Sunday afternoon, and at Market-street in the evening. Good sales of literature and THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST were effected.

The Party has secured rooms at the corner of Park and Castlereagh Streets, city. Members and friends are invited to attend a social gathering on Saturday evening to formally open the new headquarters. All speakers are requested to make the new quarters known at all propaganda meetings. It is intended to make the new premises a comfortable and useful centre for local and visiting comrades, and all are asked to assist the Premises Committee to further their object. The Committee has worked night and day, during the Easter holidays, painting and decorating the rooms, and it now remains for all International Socialists to do their best to make the new headquarters a success.

Brisbane.

A meeting of Socialists was held in the Trades Hall, Brisbane, on Sunday morning, the 7th April, when it was decided to form a branch of the S.F.A. Next meeting will be held in the Trades Hall on April 21.—W. J. O'KEEFFE, secretary, Ebor House, Charlotte-street, Brisbane.

Adelaide's Roll of Honor.

Following is a list of "loyalists" who worked during the corporation strike in Adelaide:

A. Hewitt, engineer; J. Sillifiant, member, Marine Engineers' Society; H. E. Bennett, member M.E.S.; H. J. Miller, member, M.E.S.; J. Foggo, plumber; C. Clark, carpenter; J. Farquar, carpenter; R. Ellis, painter; H. Davis, engineer; A. Thompson, engineer; A. Holland, engineer; A. Anderson, winchman; M. O'Keefe, carter; T. A. Gallasch, carter; T. Cullen, carter; J. P. Sexton, ex-reporter; T. Hayes, shearer; S. Thomas, builders' laborer; S. Mayfield, W. Rogers, C. Deighton, C. T. Moyes, L. Black, F. Durston, J. Byrne, R. Fraser, R. Everitt, B. Rumble, A. Roberts, F. W. Kerslake, J. Candlett, A. Lamont, R. S. Summers, John J. Gee, E. Black, J. Ritchie, J. Foster, B. Matthews, J. H. Lester, A. Stewart, W. G. Church, W. Herdey, R. Rafferty, J. Cook, S. Thomas, J. Hayes, T. Ewens, F. Bailey, F. Hawkes, H. Frost, J. Ward.

Maintenance Fund.

Perth Socialist Party £1 10s; Weymark 5s. Total for week, £1 15s.

Press Fund.

Already acknowledged, £143 11s 9d. Collected at Club Social, 8s. Total, £144 19s 9d.

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SALVE.

[For The International Socialist.]

By F. L. Minargo.

The God of Mercy, God of Love,
There in your home in heaven above,
Just turn your ear and list to me
And tell me why these things can be.

O why does Fat from out your land
Take all the plums and leave the sand
For the working man that finds it all?
Say, don't you think Fat's got a gall?

Old Adam, whom you first put here,
Had everything, it seems, 'cept beer;
And 'cos he took forbidden fruit,
From Eden he was sent—per boot.

These other blokes, as you must know,
Take all the fish, likewise the roe,
And by your works the roes in time
Are still more fish! The power is thine

To alter this and let the man
Who does the work in every clan
Buck in and have a decent share
Of this earth's fruit—it's only fair!

Now, justice is a point, I'm told,
On which you're strong. I'm very bold,
I know, to say it's up to you
To alter things! Why, strike me blue,

You only worked for six short days,
And things since then are in a maze.
Roll up your sleeves and get to work—
Why make us do what others shirk?

* * *

Well, then, since you won't move, it seems
We'll have to leave our prayers and dreams;
No more we'll bow to any bloke
United, WE can break the yoke.

A Socialist in South Africa.

By Dora B. Montefiore.

Comrades in Australia will be interested to hear that I had not been a week in Johannesburg before I was approached by a member of the Labor Party with a request to help him and others in an agitation they were getting up against compulsory military service.

The man was deeply in earnest, and, having fought through more than one South African war, he knew what he was talking about from the humanitarian side; but when it came to putting before him *our* anti-militarist propoganda from the industrial standpoint, it was very difficult to make headway with him, for he knew absolutely nothing of the Socialist interpretation of existing social conditions, and he asked for an explanation of "class-consciousness."

It appeared, from what he told me, that the Labor Party of S. Africa were divided on the subject of compulsory military training, and that the woman editor of the *Worker* (the Labor organ) was in favor of it. He had counted on her speaking for him at his preliminary meeting, but, to his chagrin, found she was in the opsite camp. He then, having heard something of my work in Australia, came to me; but I had to point out to him that as I had only just landed in his country, my movements and engagements were in the hands of my comrades, and that I must take no step in conjunction with any other party which might compromise them.

If I, a new comer, appeared on the Labor platform attacking the government's proposed legislation, I might bring myself and them into ridicule; for the press would with one voice exclaim: "What does this woman, who has not been a week among us, know of our special problems and difficulties?"

My Labor friend spent two hours trying to persuade me to take an active part in the Labor Party agitation; while I nearly made his hair stand on end by telling him how a "Labor" Party had rushed our Defence Bill through; how they were building Dreadnoughts and military colleges and small arms factories, and were imprisoning the sons of workers who refused to serve; and how the Federal Minister for Defence had declared in the Senate that in times of strike the young recruits could and would be used to shoot down their fathers and brothers. When I added that the women of Australia all had the vote, and that they had helped without a protest to pass this murder measure, he looked as if, for him, the bottom of the world had fallen out; for he then confessed that he was an ardent supporter of the limited franchise for women in the Transvaal; and one of his favorite arguments, he explained, was that women would be opposed to war.

Well, I think he went away from his interview with me with something to think about, though perhaps he is a wiser and a sadder man. I helped him to draw up his declaration of principles and programme, substituting anti-militarism for peace propaganda, and appealing to the solidarity of interests of workers in every country; I advised him to read "The Great Illusion," which he had never heard of, and I promised to rise in the body of the hall, and tell the audience something about a Labor Party's Defence Act in Australia, which would be a different matter from speaking from a non-Socialist platform against proposed legislation in their country.

Kind and cheering comrades had met me at Durban and entertained me during my stay there; while at the welcome extended to me at one of the restaurants, I gave them greetings from Australian comrades, and on Sunday evening gave the Socialist message at a meeting arranged in the Public Gardens. They did not take a hall, because, when Keir Hardie was in Durban, and they took the town hall for a meeting, the capitalists packed it and would not allow him a hearing.

At Maritzburg the former capital of Natal, I was again entertained by comrades, and spoke at an indoor meeting; after which I began my real inland journey up into the Transvaal. Between Durban and Johannesburg there is a steady rise till one reaches over 6000 feet above sea level, and one finds oneself on a wonderful tableland of endless billowing veldt. The contrast with Australian scenery is startling. Here, there are no post and rail fences, for there are no forests from which to cut them. Light barbed wire fences border the railway on either side, and fence in the mealy crops; the eucalyptus has been introduced as shelter, and for ornament; while in Natal wattle farms dot the landscape every now and again, the bark of the wattle being used in tanning and the wood making mining props and supports.

After a 24 hours' journey from Durban, one reaches the city of gold mines and of human exploitation in its most naked form. The average miner dies after eight or nine years' work underground, and miners' phthisis is the demon that is stealthily filling the grave yards of the Rand. Chinaman, white man, Kaffir, it matters not to the capitalist, so long as the tale of gold is told, and the profits, enabling him and his to live in luxury and idleness, rise higher and higher. There, against the sky-line, the Rand chimneys belch day and night their smoke; there, all along the reef, the great heaps of white refuse extracted from the mines, rise higher and higher; and there, alongside, grows daily the wonderful city of gold and of human exploitation—the city which is hardly more than a quarter of a century in age, but in which industrial history is already making itself at an almost incredible rate.

Over twenty comrades met me at Germiston, two stations from Johannesburg, and I was overjoyed to meet Mrs. Fitzgerald, of whom I had heard and read so much; and Crawford, whose face was that of an old friend. The latter is in the midst of a libel action because he has had the courage to show up the manoeuvres of Russian spies on the Rand, and thus protect our Russian comrades from future persecution and arrest. He has the South African Bund behind him, and the good wishes of all lovers of fair dealing between man and man.

Problems here are complicated, but intensely interesting; the population is a cosmopolitan one; and South African capitalists in some degree are doing what United States capitalists are doing in America—calling together the nations and races from the ends of the earth. This marvellous call, which is for the purposes of exploitation, evolution is using for the purposes of human understanding and industrial solidarity. The Socialists could not have accomplished this miracle which economic forces are driving the capitalists to undertake; but we can interpret for the workers how the stars in their courses are fighting for us, and we can link up throughout the world that comradeship which makes first for revolt against organised exploitation, and then for construction of the new economic and social order.

Industrial Workers of the World.

The Industrial Workers of the World is an organisation of rebel slaves formed for the purpose of all inclusive unionism of the economic interests of the working class, to overthrow Capitalism.

Emancipation can only be brought about through the working class combining as a class union.

The industrial organisation of society by the slaves can be the result neither of an accident nor of a miracle.

All revolutions move in the light of their own legality.

To this end the Industrial Workers of the World does not seek the Government of men. But they do seek the government of what they produce. They are organised in a world-wide movement, and are acquiring ability for industrial administration. When a sufficient number are organised by knowledge and experience the working class will develop the understanding necessary which can fit it for the role it is to play, if it is ever to be free or administer industry and society, only by becoming conscious of its power, but also of its mission.

The Industrial Workers of the World is an organisation now and here of a new industrial society within the shell of the old.

One union, one enemy, one goal.

Open Column.

N.Z. Federation of Labor.

Editor, The International Socialist,—In your issue of the 16th you print an interview with Semple, of the N.Z.F.L., in which there are several omissions, and, I think, one misstatement. Semple is quoted as saying that "the Government enacted a measure making it compulsory for every worker to undergo a medical examination before being permitted to work." So far as my recollection serves me, the Government passed a law compelling the mine-owners to pay compensation to employees suffering from "Miners' Complaint," and the bosses in consequence enforced the medical examination. He forgets to state that the shearers are still registered under the Arbitration Act, and in view of that fact it can hardly be claimed that the N.Z.F.L. is an industrial union. As a tree is known by its fruit, so is an industrial organisation by its paper. The mouthpiece of the N.Z.F.L. is the *Maoriland Worker*, and its actions at the time of the late N.Z. elections were, to say the least, peculiar. At that time Mack, the secretary of the A.S.R.S., stood for the Parnell seat. Sir John Findlay, Attorney-General, also contested the seat. Nearly two months before the election, Mack announced that Findlay had assured him that if he (Mack) were in the second ballot and Findlay out of it, Findlay would work to secure Mack's election. In face of this the *Worker* advised the workers of Parnell to vote for Mack. I wrote to the *Worker* drawing attention to Mack's utterance, and his record. The *Worker* printed my letter, and a fortnight later explained its position—that it supported all candidates who were run on the Labor ticket. I let it go at that. I reckoned that Ross and Hogg knew they were wrong, but could not help themselves. In order to keep hold of the shearers the N.Z.F.L. has, through its organ, to pat on the back such political freaks as Robertson, of Otaki, and Parnell, almost of Parnell. It would be idle to deny that the N.Z.F.L. has secured better conditions for its members than the courts gave them. Such is the power of the strike. But in its present condition it is not doing the most important work—viz., making Socialists.—Yours fraternally, Barnaby Buffer-Beam.

Socialists of Germany.

Says the *New World* (Eng.): "There are two features of German Socialism, largely ignored by the capitalist press, that should be clearly understood by every intelligent worker. In the first place, it is not *primarily* a movement for the overthrow of political oppression but one which has as its aim *the overthrow of industrial oppression*, in other words, of capitalism. Its activities against political oppression are one part of its campaign against the whole superstructure of capitalist society. Secondly, it is essentially a working-class party. Nearly a million members are enrolled in its ranks. It is controlled by its rank and file who pay the piper and consequently call the tune. It does not depend like the Liberal and Conservative parties in England on secret party funds provided by capitalists in return for "services received"; its 80 and more daily papers, having a combined circulation of 1,500,000, are owned and controlled by the party organisation and are consequently not at the mercy of capitalist financiers."

Karl Kautsky, writing in *Die Neue Zeit* (Jan. 19), said, re the first ballot results: "The *North German General Gazette* now desires to arouse all capitalist elements to activity against us, because our policy is one of CLASS STRUGGLE, SOCIAL-REVOLUTION AND INTERNATIONALISM. It thinks thereby to brand and denounce us. But it has been this policy alone which has obtained increased strength at the recent election. More seats than ever before at the first ballot and an increase of votes which places that of 1903 in the background, this is what the policy of the Class Struggle, Social Revolution, and Internationalism has brought us. . . . To demand of us that in order to fight against the Government Block (alliance) we should form a similar alliance with Liberals is to ask of us that we cease to be Social-Democrats. Union in such an alliance can only help those parties which are at bottom kin with one another and merely through misunderstandings, traditions, or similar trifles have become divided. In point of fact every Liberal who suggests such an alliance to us expects us to regard our Socialist program and our proletarian class-character as only remembrances of former times, having no real strength at present."

The day before the election, *Vorwaerts*, the great Socialist daily of Berlin, expressed itself thus wise: "We are not a Party like the others. We do not ask of you your vote only. You owe us all your person. We are a party of social tranformation, not of reforms. For reforms have their definite limits in the existing social order."

International Notes.

Austria.

The Government of Croatia is again being carried on according to Russian methods. The newly elected Parliament was at once dissolved, because its constitution was not agreeable to the Viceroy. Every day nearly all the Agram newspapers are confiscated, so that they are beginning to publish recipes for cooking fish instead of their too dangerous leading articles.

France.

Working-class Paris turned out in hundreds of thousands on a recent Sunday to attend the funeral of the young soldier Aernoult, who was done to death in the penal regiment at Djenan-ed-Dar. Since the commune, no such gigantic and moving demonstration has been known in Paris; it constituted in reality a demand for the abolition of military tribunals altogether, and in particular for justice for Rousset, the brave man who has had the courage to denounce the crime and brand the assassins, and who has himself been condemned to 20 years' hard labor for murder, of which he is probably innocent. The police estimate the number of persons present at 150,000, speeches were made at the graveside by Sembat, Jouhaux, and others. Forty-one arrests were made.

The ninth Annual Congress of the Unified Socialist Party was opened at Lyons on Sunday. It was held in the building of the "Unitaire," a co-operative society created by the Party and the trade unions. The first morning was taken up with greeting to the delegates, appointment of chairman, discussions on standing orders, etc. In the afternoon a procession of 5,000 Socialists marched with red flags to the Unitaire, where a large public meeting was held. Several fraternal delegates were present: Muller (Germany), Nemec (Bohemia), Ciotti (Italy), Keir Hardie (England), Inera (Russia), Einarti (Norway).

Dubreuilh, in a moving discourse, pointed to the participation of the whole International in the Congress. Sembat, Jaures, Compere Morel and the foreign delegates also addressed the meeting.

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